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EXAMINER

FOX, BRYAN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2617

DATE MAILED: 05/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/998,964

Applicant(s)

ARIGA ET AL.

Examiner

Bryan J. Fox

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-13, 16, 17, 19 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-13, 16, 17, 19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The Art Unit location of your application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Art Unit 2617.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 7, 2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-3, 8, 12, 13, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al (US 20030037167A1) in view of Sausta et al (US5034993).

Regarding **claim 1**, Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al discloses an ad-hoc network 10, which reads on the claimed "network system", including a number of Internet Radios 16a-16 (see page 4, paragraph 42 and figure 1), which read on the claimed "relay station device" and hosts 22A-22C (see page 4, paragraph 43 and figure 1), which read on the claimed "terminal communicating with said center via said relay station device". Internet Radios 16a and 16b may act as "AirHeads", communicating with a router to the Internet, which reads on the claimed "said relay station device has a first function for directly communicating with said center", while Internet Radios 16c-16i communicate with the router to the Internet via the "AirHeads" 16a and 16b (see page 4, paragraphs 42 and 43 and figure 1), which reads on the claimed "second function for communicating with said center via another relay station". Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al fails to disclose choosing an operating mode based upon a communication quantity of the relay station device.

In a similar field of endeavor, Sausta et al discloses a system that allocates reserve resources based on the load in two systems. When one system is using all its resources, a specific request for additional resources is received from a communication system in need and a repeater is assigned to that system (see column 3, lines 12-21), which reads on the claimed, "a mode switching signal being transmitted when the communication quantity reaches a predetermined condition." The permanently allocated resources in that system read on the claimed "threshold."

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al with Sausta et al to provide an

efficient, automatic technique for temporarily allocating RF communication resources among RF communication systems, as suggested by Sausta (see column 1, lines 26-35).

Regarding **claim 12**, Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al discloses an ad-hoc network 10 including a number of Internet Radios 16a-16 (see page 4, paragraph 42 and figure 1), which read on the claimed "relay station device" and hosts 22A-22C (see page 4, paragraph 43 and figure 1), which read on the claimed "terminal". The hosts access the Internet through the network 10 (see page 4, paragraph 43 and figure 1), which reads on the claimed "relay unit relaying communication between a center and a terminal". The Internet Radios 16a and 16b may act as "AirHeads", communicating with a router to the Internet, which reads on the claimed "said relay station device has a first executing unit executing a first function for directly communicating with said center", while Internet Radios 16c-16i communicate with the router to the Internet via the "AirHeads" 16a and 16b (see page 4, paragraphs 42 and 43 and figure 1), which reads on the claimed "second executing unit executing a second function for communicating with said center via another relay station". Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al fails to disclose choosing an operating mode based upon a communication quantity of the relay station device.

In a similar field of endeavor, Sausta et al discloses a system that allocates reserve resources based on the load in two systems. When one system is using all its resources, a specific request for additional resources is received from a communication system in need and a repeater is assigned to that system (see column 3, lines 12-21), which reads on the claimed, "a mode switching signal being transmitted when the

communication quantity reaches a predetermined condition.” The permanently allocated resources in that system read on the claimed “threshold”.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al with Sausta et al to provide an efficient, automatic technique for temporarily allocating RF communication resources among RF communication systems, as suggested by Sausta (see column 1, lines 26-35).

Regarding **claims 2 and 13**, Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al fails to teach switching modes of operation in response to communication quantity.

In a similar field of endeavor, Sausta et al discloses a system that allocates reserve resources based on the load in two systems. When one system is using all its resources, a repeater is assigned to that system (see column 3, lines 15-21). The permanently allocated resources in that system read on the claimed “threshold”.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al with Sausta et al to include the above dynamic allocation of resources in order to provide an efficient, automatic technique for temporarily allocating RF communication resources among RF communication systems, as suggested by Sausta (see column 1, lines 26-35).

Regarding **claim 3**, Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al fails to disclose switching modes in response to a communication quantity.

In a similar field of endeavor, Sausta et al discloses that a resource manager 305 allocates or de-allocates resources based upon loading information (see Sausta et al column 3, lines 57-62).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al with Sausta et al to include the above dynamic allocation of resources in order to provide an efficient, automatic technique for temporarily allocating RF communication resources among RF communication systems, as suggested by Sausta (see column 1, lines 26-35).

Regarding **claim 8**, Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al discloses an ad-hoc network 10, which reads on the claimed "network system", including a number of Internet Radios 16a-16 (see page 4, paragraph 42 and figure 1), which read on the claimed "relay station device" and hosts 22A-22C (see page 4, paragraph 43 and figure 1). Internet radio 16d reads on the "first relay station device," and Hosts 22A or 22B reads on the claimed "terminal communicating with said center via said first and second relay station devices." Internet Radios 16a and 16b may act as "AirHeads," communicating with a router to the Internet, while Internet Radios 16c-16i communicate with the router to the Internet via the "AirHeads" 16a and 16b (see page 4, paragraphs 42 and 43 and figure 1), which reads on the claimed "wherein said first relay station device has a first function for directly communicating with said center and a second function for communicating with said center via another relay station." Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al fails to disclose choosing an operating mode based upon a message indicating mode switching received from a slave station.

In a similar field of endeavor, Sausta et al discloses a system that allocates reserve resources based on the load in two systems. When one system is using all its resources, a repeater is assigned to that system based on a request for allocation of more resources (see column 3, lines 15-21). The permanently allocated resources in that system read on the claimed "threshold," and the request for more resources reads on the claimed "message indicating mode switching received from a slave station," wherein the newly assigned repeater is switching modes when assigned.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al with Sausta et al to provide an efficient, automatic technique for temporarily allocating RF communication resources among RF communication systems, as suggested by Sausta (see column 1, lines 26-35).

Regarding **claim 16**, Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al discloses an ad-hoc network 10 including a number of Internet Radios 16a-16 (see page 4, paragraph 42 and figure 1), which read on the claimed "relay station device", and, "relay unit relaying communication between a center and a terminal," and hosts 22A-22C (see page 4, paragraph 43 and figure 1). Internet Radios 16a and 16b may act as "AirHeads", communicating with a router to the Internet, which reads on the claimed "first executing unit executing a first function for directly communicating with said center", while Internet Radios 16c-16i communicate with the router to the Internet via the "AirHeads" 16a and 16b (see page 4, paragraphs 42 and 43 and figure 1), which reads on the claimed "second executing unit executing a second function for communication with said center

via another relay station". Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al fails to disclose choosing an operating mode based upon a message indicating mode switching received from a slave station.

In a similar field of endeavor, Sausta et al discloses a system that allocates reserve resources based on the load in two systems. When one system is using all its resources, a repeater is assigned to that system based on a request for allocation of more resources (see column 3, lines 15-21). The permanently allocated resources in that system read on the claimed "threshold," and the request for more resources reads on the claimed "message indicating mode switching received from a slave station," wherein the newly assigned repeater is switching modes when assigned.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al with Sausta et al to include the above dynamic allocation of resources in order to provide an efficient, automatic technique for temporarily allocating RF communication resources among RF communication systems, as suggested by Sausta (see column 1, lines 26-35).

Regarding **claim 17**, Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al discloses an ad-hoc network 10 including a number of Internet Radios 16a-16 (see page 4, paragraph 42 and figure 1), which read on the claimed "relay station device", and, "relay unit relaying communication between a center and a terminal," and hosts 22A-22C (see page 4, paragraph 43 and figure 1). Internet Radios 16a and 16b may act as "AirHeads", communicating with a router to the Internet, which reads on the claimed "first executing unit executing a first function for directly communicating with said center", while Internet

Radios 16c-16i communicate with the router to the Internet via the "AirHeads" 16a and 16b (see page 4, paragraphs 42 and 43 and figure 1), which reads on the claimed "second executing unit executing a second function for communication with said center via another relay station". Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al fails to disclose choosing an operating mode based upon a message indicating mode switching received from a slave station.

In a similar field of endeavor, Sausta et al discloses a system that allocates reserve resources based on the load in two systems. When one system is using all its resources, a repeater is assigned to that system based on a request for allocation of more resources (see column 3, lines 15-21). The permanently allocated resources in that system read on the claimed "threshold," and the request for more resources reads on the claimed "message indicating mode switching received from a slave station," wherein the newly assigned repeater is switching modes when assigned.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al with Sausta et al to include the above dynamic allocation of resources in order to provide an efficient, automatic technique for temporarily allocating RF communication resources among RF communication systems, as suggested by Sausta (see column 1, lines 26-35).

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al in view of Ramanathan (US005850592A).

Regarding **claim 4**, Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al discloses an ad-hoc network 10, which reads on the claimed “network system”, including a number of Internet Radios 16a-16 (see page 4, paragraph 42 and figure 1), which read on the claimed “relay station device” and hosts 22A-22C (see page 4, paragraph 43 and figure 1), which read on the claimed “terminal communicating with said center via said relay station device”. Internet Radios 16a and 16b may act as “AirHeads”, communicating with a router to the Internet, which reads on the claimed “said relay station device has a first function for directly communicating with said center”, while Internet Radios 16c-16i communicate with the router to the Internet via the “AirHeads” 16a and 16b (see page 4, paragraphs 42 and 43 and figure 1), which reads on the claimed “second function for communicating with said center via another relay station,” and, “wherein one of a first operating mode for executing said first function and a second operating mode for executing said second function is set to said relay station device.” Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al fails to expressly disclose outputting a communication stop signal when the relay station device cannot communicate with a host station, and the host station outputting a recovery signal when the relay station is communicable with the host station, and selecting the mode of operation based on one of these signals.

In a similar field of endeavor, Ramanathan discloses a communication network employing a plurality of similar mobile stations, some of which are operating as cluster gateways and some of which are operating as non-gateway, or cluster member stations (see column 3, lines 1-13 and figure 1). The cluster gateway mode of operation reads on the claimed “first operating mode for executing said first function” and the non-

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gateway or cluster member mode reads on the claimed "second operating mode for executing said second function". A station first attempts to affiliate with an existing cluster gateway station, and, if successful, operates as a cluster member (see column 3, lines 41-50 and figure 2). However, if the station cannot connect to an existing cluster gateway station, the station enters operation as a cluster gateway (see column 4, lines 8-19 and figure 2), which reads on the claimed "said relay station device cannot communicate with a host station including said another relay station, said relay station device is set to said first operating mode". If at some point the station determines that it is no longer able to communicate, it re-executes the affiliation procedure (see column 3, line 42 – column 4, line 10). Periodically, each gateway station tests its proximity conditions to other gateway stations, e.g., by signal strength measurements or using other data available through the exchanging of messages by the cluster gateway stations which make up the network background and if the test indicates that the proximity conditions are exceeded, i.e., that the particular station's operation as a gateway is possibly redundant and/or unnecessary, the station executes a resignation procedure (see column 4, lines 30-46), which reads on the claimed, "wherein when said host station can communicate with said relay station device, said host station outputs to said center a recovery declaration signal indicating that said host station can communicate with said relay station device, and wherein said center outputs to said relay station device a recovery notification signal indicating that said host station is communicable based on said communication stop signal and said recovery declaration

signal, and wherein said relay station device is switched from said first operating mode to said second operation mode in response to said recovery notification signal.”

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al to include the above mode switching as disclosed by Ramanathan in order to provide a network which possesses the ability to adaptively reorganize in the face of movement or destruction and that is highly reliable and simple and inexpensive to construct as suggested by Ramanathan (see column 1, lines 50-56).

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al in view of Hill et al (US006381467B1).

Regarding **claim 7**, Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al discloses an ad-hoc network 10, which reads on the claimed “network system”, including a number of Internet Radios 16a-16 (see page 4, paragraph 42 and figure 1), which read on the claimed “relay station device” and hosts 22A-22C (see page 4, paragraph 43 and figure 1). Internet radio 16d reads on the “first relay station device,” and IR 16C reads on the “second relay station device provided between said center and said first relay station device,” and Hosts 22A or 22B reads on the claimed “terminal communicating with said center via said first and second relay station devices.” Internet Radios 16a and 16b may act as “AirHeads,” communicating with a router to the Internet, while Internet Radios 16c-16i communicate with the router to the Internet via the “AirHeads” 16a and 16b (see page 4, paragraphs 42 and 43 and figure 1), which reads on the claimed “wherein said first relay

station device has a first function for directly communicating with said center and a second function for communicating with said center via said second relay station device and another relay station.” Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al fails to disclose choosing an operating mode based upon a communication quantity of the relay station device.

In a similar field of endeavor, Hill et al discloses a system where a master recognizes a need for assistance in managing the ad hoc wireless network in response to experiencing a traffic level exceeding a predetermined threshold and negotiates with a member of the ad hoc wireless network for the member to become a sub-master (see column 1, line 65 – column 2, line 65). The negotiation in response to a traffic threshold reads on the claimed “said second relay station transmits to said first relay station device a communication quantity data indicating a communication quantity in said second relay station device, and wherein said first relay station device is set to one of a first operating mode for executing said first function and a second operating mode for executing said second function based on said communication quantity data, a mode switching signal being transmitted when the communication quantity reaches a predetermined condition,” wherein the negotiation reads on the mode switching signal.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al with Hill et al to include the above change in mode in response to communication quantity in order to off-load some or all managed communication devices when capacity or other factors make it necessary for the master to lighten its management load as suggested by Hill et al (see column 1, lines 25-28).

Claims 9, 11, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al in view of Sausta et al, as applied to claims 1 and 12 above, and further in view of Totaro et al (US006137885A).

Regarding **claims 9 and 19**, the combination of Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al and Sausta et al discloses that internet radios 16a and 16b are connected to the Internet via LAN 20 (see figure 1), which reads on the claimed "mobile communication network line is used for communication between said another relay station and said center". The combination of Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al and Sausta et al fails to disclose direct communication between terminals.

In a similar field of endeavor, Totaro et al discloses a system that allows a direct encrypted radio telephone link between two terminals of a mobile radio network (see column 2, lines 66-67 and figure 1) where the direct radio link is facilitated by the terminal (see column 3, lines 14-43 and figure 3), which reads on the claimed "communication between said relay station device and said terminal is made through direct communication between terminals".

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al and Sausta et al with Totaro et al to include the above direct link between terminals in order to conserve system resources.

Regarding **claims 11 and 20**, the combination of Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al and Sausta et al discloses that internet radios 16a and 16b are connected to the Internet via

LAN 20 (see Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al figure 1), which reads on the claimed "mobile communication network line is used for communication between said another relay station and said center". The combination of Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al and Sausta et al fails to disclose direct communication between terminals.

Totaro et al discloses a system that allows a direct encrypted radio telephone link between two terminals of a mobile radio network (see column 2, lines 66-67 and figure 1) where the direct radio link is facilitated by the terminal (see column 3, lines 14-43 and figure 3), which reads on the claimed "communication between said relay station device and said terminal is made through direct communication between terminals".

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al and Sausta et al with Totaro et al to include the above direct link between terminals in order to conserve system resources.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al in view of Hill et al as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Totaro et al.

Regarding **claim 10**, the combination of Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al and Sausta et al discloses that internet radios 16a and 16b are connected to the Internet via LAN 20 (see figure 1), which reads on the claimed "mobile communication network line is used for communication between said another relay station and said center". The

combination of Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al and Hill et al fails to disclose direct communication between terminals.

In a similar field of endeavor, Totaro et al discloses a system that allows a direct encrypted radio telephone link between two terminals of a mobile radio network (see column 2, lines 66-67 and figure 1) where the direct radio link is facilitated by the terminal (see column 3, lines 14-43 and figure 3), which reads on the claimed "communication between said relay station device and said terminal is made through direct communication between terminals".

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al and Hill et al with Totaro et al to include the above direct link between terminals in order to conserve system resources.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed March 7, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant argues that the combination of Garcia-Luna-Aceves and Sausta et al fail to disclose a mode switching signal being transmitted when the communication quantity reaches a predetermined condition. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As discussed in the rejection above, when one system is using all its resources, a specific request for additional resources is received from a communication system in need and a

repeater is assigned to that system (see column 3, lines 12-21), which reads on the claimed, "a mode switching signal being transmitted when the communication quantity reaches a predetermined condition."

The Applicant argues the combination of Garcia-Luna-Aceves and Ramanathan fails to disclose said relay station device cannot communicate with a host station including said another relay station, said relay station device is set to said first operating mode. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As discussed in the rejection above, if at some point the station determines that it is no longer able to communicate, it re-executes the affiliation procedure (see Ramanathan column 3, line 42 – column 4, line 10). The re-affiliation procedure reads on the communication stop signal.

The Applicant argues the combination of Garcia-Luna-Aceves and Hill et al fails to disclose a mode switching signal being transmitted when the communication quantity reaches a predetermined condition. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As discussed in the rejection above, a master recognizes a need for assistance in managing the ad hoc wireless network in response to experiencing a traffic level exceeding a predetermined threshold and negotiates with a member of the ad hoc wireless network for the member to become a sub-master (see column 1, line 65 – column 2, line 65). The negotiation reads on the claimed mode-switching signal.

The Applicant argues that Sausta fails to disclose one of a first operating mode for executing the first function and a second operating mode for executing the second function is set to the relay station device in response to a message indicating mode switching transmitted from a slave station including the terminal. Garcia-Luna Aceves is

relied upon to disclose a first operating mode for executing the first function and a second operating mode for executing the second function is set to the relay station device (see rejection of claim 8 above) and Sausta is only relied upon to disclose the mode switching signal.

The Applicant argues that Sausta does not have direct communication with the center. The Examiner notes that Garcia-Luna-Aceves teaches this limitation (see rejection above).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bryan J. Fox whose telephone number is (571) 272-7908. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on (571) 272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Bryan Fox
May 12, 2006


JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER